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NEWS RELEASE

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RECORD BREAKING HOT LOTTO FIRST DRAW SALES FOR A RECORD BREAKING JACKPOT AND A \$10,000 WINNING TICKET

The North Dakota Lottery's Hot Lotto ticket sales for its first draw were sizzling hot. The Lottery's Hot Lotto sales for Saturday night's draw totaled \$56,334 - equal to a record breaking 8.9 cents per capita, and more than four times the average 2.2 cents per capita sales of the seven other Hot Lotto Lottery jurisdictions. This coincided with a record breaking Hot Lotto jackpot of \$5.5 million that has rolled over to \$5.68 million for Wednesday's draw.

"North Dakota citizens are interested in lottery games and they are playing," said Lottery Director Chuck Keller. "The competitive spirit between retailers across the state is the other side of the coin. At times, we wonder who is having more fun, the players or our retail partners," he continued.

"Logistically, western North Dakota has dictated the Lottery's high sales per capita charts since the games began. But then, people in the eastern part of our state have been playing these games in our neighboring states for many years," Keller said.

The first Hot Lotto drawing for North Dakota players took place on Saturday, June 26. There were 3,539 winning Hot Lotto tickets worth \$21,992 in prizes. Also, there were 3,410 winning Powerball tickets totaling \$34,566 in prizes. Lady Luck found one very lucky player who has a \$10,000 winning ticket bought at the M & H Convenience Store, 25 Burdick Expressway, in Minot.

Like Powerball, the game Hot Lotto is a multi-state lottery game. It is also conducted in the District of Columbia, Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, New Hampshire, South Dakota, and West Virginia. There have been seven Hot Lotto jackpots won since the game started in August 2002. New Hot Lotto game brochures are available at all lottery retailers.

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